

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /093 W
-----111295 040127Z /63

R 022024Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2325
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08419

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS
SUBJECT: SPANISH POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA

REF: USUN 4255

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE POLISARIO ATTACK ON SPAIN IN
THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (REFTEL), MADRID'S LIBERAL-LEFT
DAILY EL PAIS OBTAINED AND PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2 A FORMAL
STATEMENT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SPAIN'S POSITION.
WE SUMMARIZE THE PRINCIPAL POINTS BELOW:

-- "SPAIN CARRIED OUT THE DE-COLONIZATION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER AND
RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN";

-- THE MADRID AGREEMENTS ("DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES OF MADRID") MARKED THE END OF THE SPANISH
PRESENCE IN THE TERRITORY AND "THE TRANSFER TO A
TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION OF SPAIN'S ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT DID NOT HAVE THE PURPOSE OF
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TRANSFERRING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TERRITORY NOR THE
SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION OF THE END OF THE DE-COLONIZATION
PROCESS";

-- SPAIN'S COMMUNICATION OF FEBRUARY 26, 1976 (TO
THE UN SYG) ESTABLISHED TWO FUNDAMENTAL POINTS: "THAT
IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DE-COLONIZATION PROCESS HAD NOT

CONCLUDED AND THAT FOR THIS TO TAKE PLACE THE OPINION OF THE SAHRAWI PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPRESSED VALIDLY";

-- THE VALIDITY OF THE MADRID AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE UN; SPAIN NO LONGER HAS RESPONSIBILITIES "IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE DE-COLONIZATION PROCESS, (WHICH IS) STILL PENDING THE DECISION OF THE UN AND THE OAU..."

-- "SPAIN HAS DEFENDED AND WILL CONTINUE DEFENDING THE APPLICABILITY TO THE SAHARA OF THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE DETERMINATION".

2. THE MINISTRY STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH UNIDENTIFIED EXTRACTS FROM FONMIN OREJA'S SEPTEMBER SPEECH TO THE UNGA, INCLUDING ASSERTIONS OF CONTINUING SPANISH INTEREST IN THE REGION, CONFIDENCE THAT FORMULAS CAN BE FOUND FOR A "JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION", BELIEF THAT "SAID SOLUTION SHOULD BE SOUGHT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PARTIES, IN THE HARMONIZATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AND LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AND BEARING IN MIND THE EXPRESSION OF SAHRAWI WILL", AND DISPOSITION TO COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS AND TAKE MEASURES TO "CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE IN THIS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE AREA".

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHIEF FOR NORTH AFRICA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MIDDLE EAST (CAJAL) TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE MATERIAL PUBLISHED BY EL PAIS HAD INDEED BEEN PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY, BUT ON A BACKGROUND BASIS: HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO SEE IT PUBLISHED, BUT IT WAS IN FACT ACCURATE.

4. CAJAL ADDED THAT THEY HAD KNOWN THE POLISARIO ATTACK WAS COMING, BUT HAD BEEN TAKEN ABACK, AND WERE RATHER DISPLEASED WITH ITS VIGOR. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE GOS WAS STILL STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARMS EMBARGO (MADRID 7892), JUST AS IT WAS STILL PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE SOME KIND OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. THE POLISARIO ATTACK, HOWEVER, HE IMPLIED, HAD NOT HELPED THE CHANCES OF EVENTUAL SPANISH DECISIONS AND ACTIONS FAVORABLE TO THE POLISARIO SIDE. THE SPANISH RESPONSE IN NEW YORK, CAJAL SAID, WOULD BE DELIBERATELY NON-POLEMICAL IN NATURE, WITH A VIEW TO SEEING IF THE SITUATION COULD BE CALMED DOWN. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID08419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770406-0127
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711105/aaaadmdh.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10c6af0e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 4255
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 403058
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SP, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10c6af0e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009